

5103-82
ABS. ONLY
175093

N 9 4 - 2 8 5 4 1

NASA's Astrophysics Archives at the National Space Science Data Center

M. E. Van Steenberg (NASA-GSFC)

NASA maintains an archive facility for Astronomical Science data collected from NASA's missions at the National Space Science Data Center (NSSDC) at Goddard Space Flight Center. This archive was created to insure the science data collected by NASA would be preserved and useable in the future by the science community. Through 25 years of operation there are many lessons learned, from data collection procedures, archive preservation methods, and distribution to the community. This talk will present some of these more important lessons, for example: KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid) in system development. The talk will also address some of the myths of archiving, such as "scientists always know everything about everything", or "it can not possibly be that hard, after all simple data tech's do it". There are indeed good reasons that a proper archive capability is needed by the astronomical community, the important question is how to use the existing expertise as well as the new innovative ideas to do the best job archiving this valuable science data.